



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 9, 2003

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
610 N.W. Loop 410
San Antonio, Texas 78216
(210) 384-7452

**DALLAS WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK FRAUD, MONEY LAUNDERING,
AND FRAUDULENT USE OF A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that **Lyssa Anne Weaver**, age 31, of Dallas, Texas, pleaded guilty in Austin federal court to three counts of Bank Fraud, Money Laundering, and Fraudulent Use of a Social Security Number, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1344 and 1957, and Title 42, United States Code, Section 408, respectively. Weaver faces up to 43 years in federal prison, and fines and restitution of nearly \$1,000,000 as a result of her guilty pleas.

Appearing before United States Magistrate Judge Stephen Capelle, Weaver admitted that, between approximately February 1998 and October 2000, while she was known as Lyssa Anne Patin, she embezzled more than \$400,000 from her employer, Ikard & Golden, P.C., a law firm in Austin, Texas. Weaver, who worked as an administrative assistant at the firm, forged approximately 100 checks drawn upon the law firm's bank account. She deposited the forged checks into a personal bank account belonging to her and an ex-husband, and used the funds for their own personal benefit. Weaver subsequently engaged in several transactions involving more than \$10,000 of the ill-gotten funds, including one for more than \$16,000 for the purpose of repaying money she had stolen from a previous employer. To conceal her crimes, Weaver altered customer bank statements sent to the law firm, and gave false information to the law firm's bank.

Weaver also admitted that, in March 2001, after committing these crimes and moving to Dallas, Texas, she falsely assumed the identity of another person and fraudulently used that person's social security number in obtaining employment.

Weaver has been detained since December 2002 and will remain in custody pending her sentencing. This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division, with assistance from the Travis County District Attorney's Office. Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Devlin is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

#####